

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Montpelier, Vermont**

**TEAM:** Legal Division; Lifelong Learning Division

**ITEM:** Will the State Board of Education approve the request of the Addison Central Supervisory Union for a variance from School Quality Standard/State Board of Education Rule 2120.8.9 (b) (6), allowing Middlebury Union Middle School to eliminate one-half year of family/consumer science and offer a comprehensive health curriculum that incorporates family/consumer science program goals?

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** That the State Board of Education approve the request of the Addison Central Supervisory Union for a variance from School Quality Standard/State Board of Education Rule 2120.8.9 (b) (6), allowing Middlebury Union Middle School to eliminate one-half year of family/consumer science and offer a comprehensive health curriculum that incorporates family/consumer science program

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** SBE Rule 1260 and SBE Rule 2121

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** School Quality Standards require one-half year of study or the equivalent for family/consumer science. A review of the health and family/consumer science curriculum by Addison Central SU identified duplication of programs. The administration at Middlebury Union Middle School maintains that the needs of students can be met through the health curriculum.

Commissioner Vilaseca has reviewed and supports this request.

**NB:** This waiver is for the 2009-2010 academic year only, and any renewal thereof will require proof that the interests of students are being well served.

**COST IMPLICATIONS:** A reduction in programs is necessary in order to meet budgetary thresholds for Act 68 and Act 82.

**STAFF AVAILABLE:** Mark Oettinger, General Counsel; Pat Fitzsimmons, Interim Director Lifelong Learning; Heather Schneider, Middle Level Consultant; Donna McAllister, Health Education Consultant